

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as shown in the following Claim Listing:

**CLAIM LISTING:**

Claims 1 – 9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) ~~An electrode as in Claim 1, where~~ A combination glass pH electrode including a sensing electrode, a reference electrode possessing a standard potential, an outer tube having a liquid junction, an inner tube centrally located within the outer tube and connected to the outer tube by a top seal and a bottom seal, a reference electrolyte compartment located between the inner and outer tubes and the top and bottom seals having an opening in the outer tube, and reference electrolyte within the reference electrolyte compartment,

wherein the improvement comprises:

incorporation of a reference electrolyte compartment vent wherein the opening to the reference electrolyte compartment is covered with an elastomeric septum closure that is perforated to permit insertion of a tube which by reason of its small inside diameter compared to its length serves to minimize diffusion of moisture into or out of the reference electrolyte compartment yet serves to admit sufficient air to allow electrolyte flow from the reference electrolyte compartment through the liquid junction under the influence of gravity;[[.]]

whereby the reference electrolyte is kept constant and the standard potential of the reference electrode is thereby stabilized;

whereby the combination glass pH electrode needs no calibration for up to two years.

11. (Previously Presented) An electrode as in Claim 10, further comprising a removable tube inserted into the perforation of the elastomeric septum closure, said tube having an inner diameter of about 0.5 mm and a length of about 10 mm, said tube being temporarily removed in order to replenish the reference electrolyte.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~An electrode as in Claim 1, where~~ A combination glass pH electrode including a sensing electrode, a reference electrode possessing a standard potential, an outer tube having a liquid junction, an inner tube centrally located within the outer tube and connected to the outer tube by a top seal and a bottom seal, a reference electrolyte compartment located between the inner and outer tubes and the top and bottom seals having an opening in the outer tube, and reference electrolyte within the reference electrolyte compartment,

wherein the improvement comprises:

incorporation of a reference electrolyte compartment vent wherein the opening to the reference electrolyte compartment is covered with an elastomeric septum closure with a slit, said slit by reason of the substantial but not absolute barrier it provides between the reference electrolyte compartment and outside environment serving to minimize diffusion of moisture into or out of the reference electrolyte compartment yet serving to admit sufficient air to allow electrolyte flow from the reference electrolyte compartment through the liquid junction under the influence of gravity and at the same time serving to allow convenient replenishment of reference electrolyte by any liquid delivery means with delivery tip shaped so as to be able to pry open the slit, said slit then closing upon

removal of delivery tip by reason of the restorative tendency of the elastomeric septum closure;[[.]]

whereby the reference electrolyte is kept constant and the standard potential of the reference electrode is thereby stabilized;

whereby the combination glass pH electrode needs no calibration for up to two years.

13. (Previously Presented) An electrode as in Claim 12, where the material of the septum closure comprises a silicone elastomer with a durometer of from about 30 to about 45.

Claims 14 – 15. (Cancelled)

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